

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



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Condition Reports on Canning Crops.

Reports on the condition of sweet corn, tomatoes and snap beans for canning as of August 15 have been collected by the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates of the the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Compilation of the reports was not completed in time to permit their being printed in the current Information Letter, but the data, so far as available, are given in mimeograph tables accompanying this issue.

Preliminary Estimate on Canning Pea Production

The 1930 preliminary estimate of the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates of the production of green peas for canning or manufacture, based upon reported yields of the harvested crop, is about 10 per cent larger than estimated production in 1929. On an acreage 12 per cent larger than last year, the estimated yield per acre is 2 per cent less than the low yield of 1929. Compared with 5-year average data for the period 1924-1928, the 1930 acreage is one-fourth larger than the 5-year average, but the production this year is only 10 per cent larger, due to the fact that the yield per acre in 1930 is 12 per cent below the average yield for the 5-year period.

Production in Wisconsin is only slightly larger than in 1929 although acreage is 12 per cent above last year. Yields on Alaskas in this State were reduced by the freeze of May 17, and production on Sweets was curtailed by the hot weather in July. In the Tri-State area of Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey,

the crop was a near failure, due to the drouth and hot weather prevailing during the critical growing period. The crop in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Tennessee also suffered disastrous effects from the same conditions. Damage in these areas, however, was offset to an appreciable degree by unusually favorable growing conditions in New York, Maine and Utah, and by good yields obtained on increased acreages in Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana and Colorado.

State	Acreage		Production	
	1929 Acres	1930 Acres	1929 1,000 lbs.	1930 1,000 lbs.
Maine	1,130	a 1,330	2,077	2,993
New York	32,500	34,440	30,360	35,790
New Jersey	400	a 300	800	225
Pennsylvania	1,730	2,010	4,225	1,660
Ohio	3,030	a 5,410	7,545	4,395
Indiana	5,500	5,270	9,350	12,337
Illinois	11,010	12,660	18,054	25,120
Michigan	10,900	11,600	12,625	15,350
Wisconsin	111,000	124,000	202,250	215,940
Minnesota	12,670	19,000	21,154	34,590
Delaware	3,040	a 2,900	6,536	937
Maryland	12,400	a 12,900	27,900	4,500
Tennessee	1,400	1,400	2,320	1,300
Montana	2,900	2,800	7,234	6,300
Colorado	a 2,400	a 2,700	6,038	6,727
Utah	11,070	13,070	26,316	27,503
Washington	1,040	2,110	4,268	4,613
California	880	a 930	790	2,565
Other states b	2,000	2,000	4,240	5,430
U. S. total	a 232,420	a 260,600	408,245	445,273

a Revised.

b "Other States" group includes Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Virginia and Wyoming.

Weather Conditions

Moderate to heavy showers occurred during the week ended August 19th over large areas of the more droughty sections of the country, according to the Weather Bureau. These have brought material relief to many localities, especially in reviving pasture lands and improving late truck crops and gardens where they were not too far gone, in replenishing stock water, and in some areas benefiting corn. The soil in many places has become sufficiently moist for the resumption of plowing, especially in much of the western wheat belt.

The week brought the best rains in a long time to large droughty areas, the most substantial being in Kentucky, parts of West Virginia, southwestern Indiana, southeastern and much of northern Illinois, extreme eastern and southeastern Iowa, much of South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas, rather generally in Missouri, north-central and parts of western Tennessee, much of Arkansas, extreme northeastern Oklahoma, eastern Mississippi, and more generally in Alabama.

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To accompany Information Letter No. 369 - August 23, 1930.

FORECAST OF CANNING TOMATO PRODUCTION

Based upon prospects of the crop on August 15, the forecast of the Department of Agriculture for the production of tomatoes for canning or manufacture, is now 1,366,330 tons compared with the forecast of 1,499,430 tons on August 1 and with an estimated production of 1,426,170 tons last year. On a planted acreage 22 per cent larger than that grown in 1929, the indicated production is 4 per cent less than production last season. Compared with the five-year average production for the period, 1924-1928, the indicated production for 1930 exceeds this average by nearly 14 per cent, due to the fact that the 1930 acreage is 27 per cent larger than the five-year average acreage. The indicated yield per acre is about one-fifth smaller than the average yield last season and is one-tenth below the average of the yields during the preceding five years.

Since August 1 a general reduction in yield prospects has occurred in all areas except California, Colorado, Iowa, Indiana and Ohio. The crop in Iowa, Indiana and Ohio had already suffered materially up to August 1, but cooler temperatures and recent showers in many of the tomato producing sections have apparently prevented further deterioration. The crop in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia has continued to decline from lack of moisture. New Jersey and New York have begun to feel the effects of the dry weather and severe damage is reported from both sections. Further deterioration has also occurred in Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri and Arkansas, although recent rains in this territory were beneficial to late plantings. Blight has caused additional damage to the crop in Utah. Prospects continue very favorable in California, with indications that this State will produce nearly one-fourth of this season's tonnage.

STATE	ACREAGE		PRODUCTION	
	1929	1930	1929	1930

nearly one-fourth of this season's tonnage.

STATE	ACREAGE		PRODUCTION	
	1929 Acres	1930 Acres	1929 Tons	1930 Tons
New York	13,500	15,500	85,680	77,500
New Jersey	33,000	40,000	214,500	188,000
Pennsylvania	3,420	4,280	13,680	10,270
Ohio	10,950	13,690	52,560	61,600
Indiana	59,840	61,380	251,330	276,690
Illinois	5,440	6,310	20,670	21,450
Michigan	1,990	2,410	8,960	8,680
Iowa	4,570	6,400	25,140	23,040
Missouri	20,940	28,900	60,730	49,130
Delaware	13,500	14,180	68,850	48,210
Maryland	27,500	28,880	140,250	75,090
Virginia	6,840	7,390	25,990	13,300
Kentucky	6,820	8,930	26,600	18,750
Tennessee	9,200	11,590	23,000	20,860
Arkansas	22,600	29,380	61,020	55,820
Colorado	1,920	2,210	16,700	17,680
Utah	6,180	7,720	56,860	51,720
California	41,680	44,210	258,420	331,580
Other States 1/	4,480	6,050	15,230	16,940
U. S. Total	294,470	359,410	1,426,170	1,366,330

1/ "Other States" include Alabama, Connecticut, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

STATE	1929		1930		1929		1930	
	Acres		Acres		Tons		Tons	
Maine	14,850		13,550		46,000		45,100	
New Hampshire	1,320		1,110		3,300		2,800	
Vermont	2,370		2,350		6,200		5,900	
New York	24,600		27,080		36,900		37,900	
Pennsylvania	6,000		6,000		6,000		3,000	
Ohio	31,000		34,410		62,000		27,500	
Indiana	39,500		44,280		50,000		53,100	
Illinois	64,000		72,320		134,400		122,900	
Michigan	6,400		10,300		6,400		7,200	
Wisconsin	11,600		13,340		24,400		20,000	
Minnesota	43,900		52,580		105,400		110,600	
Iowa	52,000		54,600		130,000		103,700	
Nebraska	5,740		7,400		10,900		11,100	
Delaware	3,900		3,700		5,800		5,200	
Maryland	44,000		46,200		61,600		18,500	
Tennessee	3,400		3,400		6,600		6,100	
Other States 1/	3,250		4,160		7,500		7,900	
U. S. Total	356,830		396,860		703,600		589,500	

1/ "Other States" include Colorado, Idaho, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

To accompany Information Letter No. 369 - August 23, 1930.

FORECAST OF SNAP BEANS FOR CANNING

The forecast of the Department of Agriculture for the production of snap beans for canning or manufacture, based upon prospects of the crop on August 15, is 79,850 tons compared with the forecast of 90,020 tons on August 1, and with a production of 90,430 tons last year. On a planted acreage nearly 17 per cent larger than the acreage grown in 1929, the indicated production is about 12 per cent smaller than last season, due to the fact that the average yield per acre is nearly one-fourth below that of last year. The indicated production, however, is nearly one-half larger than the five-year average production for the period 1924-1928. This is due to the fact that acreage has expanded very rapidly during the past two seasons. The average yield per acre indicated on the 1930 crop is one-third below the five-year average yield (1924-1928) and is the lowest on record during the 12 year period in which estimates have been made.

STATE	ACREAGE		PRODUCTION	
	1929 Acres	1930 Acres	1929 Tons	1930 Tons
Maine	1,300	1,420	2,730	3,990
New York	9,800	11,370	14,700	13,520
Pennsylvania	2,720	3,350	3,810	2,680
Indiana	3,500	3,710	3,500	2,230
Michigan	5,300	5,990	4,770	4,790
Wisconsin	7,400	8,580	9,620	9,440

Indiana	3,500	3,710	3,500	2,230
Michigan	5,300	5,990	4,770	4,790
Wisconsin	7,400	8,590	9,620	9,440
Delaware	3,040	2,550	2,650	1,790
Maryland	9,400	9,740	14,280	6,820
South Carolina	870	830	1,300	1,000
Tennessee	2,000	2,400	2,400	2,160
Mississippi	1,860	2,640	1,860	2,640
Arkansas	2,240	2,510	2,460	1,260
Louisiana	2,280	3,290	2,280	3,290
Colorado	2,300	2,090	6,900	5,850
Utah	1,280	1,520	2,560	3,950
Washington	820	940	2,460	3,010
Oregon	930	980	2,790	2,830
California	750	810	3,000	3,320
Other States 1/	5,300	6,630	6,360	5,300
U. S. Total	61,030	71,150	90,430	79,850

1/ "Other States" include Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming.

Extensive areas are, however, largely unrelieved. These include most of Ohio, New York, Michigan, Minnesota, much of Montana, extreme western Tennessee, southern Arkansas and northern Louisiana, and most of Oklahoma and Texas. In these sections crops continued to deteriorate, but in the middle Atlantic area there was some relief by light local showers and much cooler weather.

Army Seeks Bids on Canned Tomatoes

The Quartermaster Supply Officer of the Army is asking for bids on canned tomatoes for delivery at various Army posts, the bids to be opened on September 18. Copies of the schedule (Invitation No. 626-31-39) may be obtained from the Quartermaster Supply Officer at Brooklyn, N. Y.

Poultry Used in Canning

The Market News Service of the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics has issued the following report on the quantities of poultry canned or used in canning during June:

	July, 1930 Pounds	June, 1930 ^b Pounds
Dressed poultry canned or used in canning	1,599,128	1,612,326
Drawn poultry canned or used in canning	393,924	393,704
Total	1,991,052	2,006,030
Number of firms reporting	81	84

^a The above figures for drawn poultry have been converted to an undrawn basis, assuming a 25 per cent shrinkage in drawing.

^b Revised to include late reports.

Price Decline Guarantees

In view of the industry's interest in the subject of guarantees against price decline in contracts for future delivery, and the discussion of apparently conflicting court decisions on clauses used in such contracts, the Association brought to its counsel's attention two decisions recently reviewed in one of the trade journals.

The guarantee clause in one contract read, "Price guaranteed against seller's own decline to October 1." The other contract provided, "Seller guarantees own price against decline until October 31."

Commenting on the courts' apparently conflicting interpretation of these clauses, the Association's counsel states that the cases should not be considered necessarily inconsistent.

"In the case where the clause was 'Price guaranteed against seller's own decline to October 1' it was reasonable to hold that

it meant only a guarantee against a reduction by the seller in his own subsequent sales of similar articles. In the other case, where the contract provided 'Seller guarantees own price against decline until October 31' the language was not so clear, and the court found that the guarantee was 'against decline' (meaning a general decline) which would make the seller's 'own price' (meaning the contract price) too high."

The practical thing for canners to do, in the opinion of the Association's counsel, is to express their guarantee, if they wish to make one, in unequivocal language, avoiding the use of the word "decline," which connotes a general fall in prices beyond the control of the canner rather than a reduction in his own prices. The Association's counsel suggests that a canner who wishes to guarantee against reductions in his own price might say:

"The seller guarantees that until _____, 193—, he will not sell, or contract to sell, articles similar to those which are the subject of this contract at a price less than the price stated in this contract, without refunding to the purchaser under this contract all amounts paid by such purchaser in excess of the amounts such purchaser would have paid had the contract price under this contract been the lowest price at which the seller makes any such sale or contract for sale prior to _____, 1930—."

Canned Oyster Pack in 1929-1930 Season

According to a preliminary survey made by the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, the pack of canned oysters in the United States during the 1929-30 season amounted to 447,316 standard cases of No. 1, 5-ounce cans, valued at \$2,206,417. This is a decrease of 14 per cent in quantity and 20 per cent in value as compared with the pack during the 1928-29 season.

The pack in Mississippi amounted to 271,240 standard cases and increased 2 per cent over the previous season, and that in Louisiana and Texas amounted to 44,917 cases, which is an increase of 34 per cent over the previous season. The pack in Maryland and North Carolina was less than one-half that of a year ago; that in Georgia and Florida was less than one-third; and none were packed in Alabama during the past season.

Truck Crop Markets

Combined carlot movement of 33 important fruits and vegetables during the week ended August 16 aggregated 19,390 cars, or nearly the same as the week preceding, according to reports received from railroads by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture. The corresponding

total last year was only 400 cars greater, because of the heavier 1929 shipments of oranges, peaches, cantaloupes and eastern apples.

There were some decreases in shipments of watermelons, tomatoes and western apples during the past week. The south-eastern melon season is about finished and supplies will now become limited. Tomatoes become largely a home-grown proposition during late summer and early fall when carlot shipments decrease. The decrease in western apples is only temporary; the movement is expected to increase soon with the harvest of the main northwestern crop.

Compared with the opening week of August, large increases of movement were registered the past week for potatoes, pears, grapes, onions, cabbage and eastern apples. The northern tier of States was beginning to ship many potatoes; Minnesota ranked second only to New Jersey last week. Northwestern pears have been added to those from California, and many shipments are going to canneries. Grape movement is active in California and the Ozark region. The late or main-crop onion and cabbage States are beginning to make large shipments.

The recent relief from drought and high temperatures in most part of the country is expected to aid materially in maintaining a normal volume of fruit and vegetable shipments until the annual peak of movement is reached, as usual, in early October.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	Aug. 10-16 1929	Aug. 3-9 1929	Aug. 11-17 1929	Total this season to Aug. 16	Total last season to Aug. 17	Total last season
Apples, total	336	328	720	4,899	4,370	102,817
Eastern states	326	316	474	2,831	2,372	51,439
Western states	210	312	246	2,078	998	51,378
Cabbage	463	302	357	16,914	23,430	44,132
Carrots	71	59	115	9,588	9,262	12,129
Cauliflower	20	19	85	115	100	9,540
Cherries	3	14	16	2,487	2,290	2,299
Cucumbers	103	85	65	6,273	6,627	7,169
Green peas	113	110	106	3,698	4,576	5,197
Mixed deciduous fruit...	441	422	466	2,928	2,582	5,192
Mixed vegetables	509	459	610	21,618	23,435	22,130
Peas	3,546	3,395	4,546	23,085	21,470	23,421
Pears	3,300	1,769	1,027	8,642	5,741	21,146
Plums and prunes	237	274	83	4,838	1,802	6,048
String beans	44	50	69	6,962	7,398	8,627
Tomatoes	216	306	311	22,877	23,267	21,946

Business Conditions

Business activity during the week ended August 16, as seen from bank debits outside of New York City, showed decreases from both the preceding period and the week ended August 17, 1929.

Wholesale prices in general, although higher than a week ago, showed a decline of 14 per cent when compared with the same period a year ago. Bank loans and discounts of Federal Reserve member banks fell off from a week ago and were well below the level of last year. Average prices for stocks declined from both prior periods. Bond prices, on the other hand, registered gains over both the previous week and the corresponding period in 1929. Interest rates for call money were higher than the preceding week, while time money rates recorded a decline. Both rates were lower than those ruling on August 17, 1929.

Business failures during the past week were fewer than the period ending August 9, 1930.

Bank loans and discounts and stock and bond prices registered increases when compared with the period ending August 18, 1928, two years ago.

Movement of commodities by rail, as shown by statistics covering the latest reported week, was less than for the preceding week and for the same week a year ago.

CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended August 9	904,137	346,790	234,940	320,387
Preceding week	918,893	358,539	234,928	324,990
Corresponding week, 1929	1,092,158	428,722	259,253	404,178
Corresponding week, 1928	1,044,268	408,411	287,018	378,939

Retail Prices of Food in July

Retail food prices in the United States as reported to the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics showed a decrease of slightly more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on July 15, 1930, when compared with June 15 of this year; and a decrease of a little more than 9 per cent since July 15, 1929. During the month from June 15 to July 15 of this year canned foods on which monthly prices were secured changed as follows: Evaporated milk, canned corn and canned peas increased 1 per cent. Canned red salmon decreased less than five-tenths of 1 per cent in price. Baked beans and canned tomatoes showed no change.

Tariff Commission Investigations Under Way

Prepared or preserved tomatoes, cherries sulphured or in brine, and olive oil, are among the articles included in 27 cost investigations ordered by the U. S. Tariff Commission as a result of resolutions adopted by the U. S. Senate. In these investigations a total of 64 commodities will be studied.

No investigations requested by private concerns have been ordered by the Commission except where the commodities covered by these requests have been included in Senate resolutions.

The chairman of the Tariff Commission in announcing the investigations, stated that under present conditions it is too early to say definitely when the reports will be received. Before reports may be submitted, he explained, public hearings must be held, and specific dates for such hearings have not yet been set.

Corn Borer Quarantine Affecting Eastern New England Modified

The Secretary of Agriculture has announced an amendment, effective August 20, to the European corn borer quarantine regulations relating to the movement of shelled corn, cut flowers, and other restricted articles.

The effect of the amendment, according to the Secretary, is to remove the restrictions on the interstate shipment of oat and rye straw, celery, and cut flowers or entire plants of cosmos, zinnia, or hollyhock, from the two-generation area of eastern New England. The requirement of certification of cleaned shelled corn and the cleaned seed of bloomcorn sorghums, and Sudan grass is also discontinued as to both the one-generation and two-generation areas. Several years' experience with restrictions on these plants and plant products indicates that infestation in them is so rare that their movement can hardly be considered to involve danger of spreading the European corn borer.

Bulletin on Strawberry Diseases

A revised edition of Farmers' Bulletin No. 1458, "Strawberry Diseases," has been issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The bulletin not only describes the various diseases that attack the strawberry but also furnishes information as to disease control methods.

Food Inspection Work in East

Canned vegetables in the eastern food inspection district received special attention by the Food and Drug Administration in the year ending March 1, 1930, according to a statement issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Close surveillance was maintained not only over the canning processes and raw materials used in canneries, but also over the finished products, says W. R. M. Wharton, chief of the district. Officials of the district inspected more than 750 factories and examined about 1,500 samples of canned vegetables,

including asparagus, beans, beets, corn, mixed vegetables, mushrooms, peas, pimientos, pumpkin and squash, sauerkraut, succotash, sweet potatoes, spinach, tomatoes, and tomato products.

Twenty-eight seizures, totaling more than 7,500 cases of adulterated and misbranded vegetables, were made, followed by citations of the packers to hearings to show why criminal prosecution should not be instituted.

The more flagrant violations, resulting in regulatory action, were under-processing, causing decomposition of the canned product; the use of decomposed material in tomato puree and catsup; the addition of water, seepage juice, or cyclone juice to canned tomatoes; and short weight and slack filling.

In addition to domestic canned vegetables, supervision was maintained also over imported products. A total of 250 lots of canned and dried vegetables were detained because they violated the food and drugs act.

In general the vast bulk of canned vegetables which annually finds its way to the American table is clean, wholesome, and properly prepared, says Mr. Wharton. Regulatory activities of the Department of Agriculture during past years, together with the efforts of most of the canning trade to constantly improve the quality of canned goods, have established the justified confidence of the public in canned foods.

In connection with the foregoing announcement, it is interesting to note that the production of the principal canned vegetables in 1929—corn, peas, tomatoes, and green and wax beans—totaled over 78,690,000 cases. The pack of all kinds of vegetables was around 100,000,000 cases.

Bulletin Issued on Tomato Yellows

Experiments on the control of tomato yellows are reported upon in Technical Bulletin No. 189, issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in July. Tomato yellows is a virus disease, is not seed borne, and its spread in the field is due exclusively to an insect carrier, the beet leaf hopper. Highly effective and economical control measures for the disease have not yet been found. The greatest benefit so far has been obtained with temporary muslin tents which protect the plants from the insect invasion and create conditions less favorable for the development of the disease.